

Amendments to the Claims:

Please amend the following claims as indicated. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims uin the application.

1. (currently amended) A brake pad assembly for a bicycle having a brake system urging the pad assembly against the sidewall of the bicycle ~~tire~~ wheel rim, the combination comprising:
 - an elongate support member having a longitudinally extending brake shoe supported therefrom, said brake shoe having a closed end planar flanged recess with an open end for receiving multiple individually molded brake pads;
 - said brake pads sequentially and slidably positioned within said brake shoe along an axis parallel to the contact surface of said sidewall in abutting relationship with each formed of a different braking compound for imparting variously desired braking characteristics to said brake pad assembly;
 - said brake shoe and said brake pads configured for interchangeability and replacement of said brake pads within said brake shoe; and
 - wherein each of said pads has a bicycle ~~tire~~ sidewall wheel rim engaging surface generally coplanar with the other.
2. (currently amended) The brake pad assembly according to Claim 1 wherein said brake shoe has longitudinal transverse curvature substantially in conformance with the radius of the sidewall of the bicycle wheel rim ~~tire~~.
3. (currently amended) The brake pad assembly according to Claim 1 ~~Claim 1~~ wherein each said brake pad is comprised of a top portion for mounting into said brake shoe and a bottom portion extending from said brake shoe, said bottom portion having a braking surface for contact with the sidewall of said bicycle ~~tire~~ wheel rim, said top portion and said bottom portion defined by an indentation along each non-abutting longitudinal side of said brake pad, said flange having inwardly projecting shoulders for capturing said top portion within said recess.

4. (previously presented) The brake pad assembly according to Claim 3 wherein said brake shoe includes locking means for fixedly positioning said brake pads therein aligned longitudinally relative to one another and relative to said brake shoe, said locking means including brake shoe capture means for coacting with the configuration of the brake pad adjacent said open end for restraining said brake pads in said brake shoe.

5. (previously presented) The brake pad assembly according to Claim 4 wherein said flange includes inwardly projecting shoulders for engaging with said indentations, said locking means further includes a transverse groove in the brake pad adjacent said open end and a locking pin, and said shoulders, said groove and said locking pin configured for coacting engagement whereby said locking pin is inserted through said groove whereby individual brake pads are restrained within said brake shoe.

6. (canceled)

7. (currently amended) The brake pad assembly according to Claim 6 ~~Claim 6~~ wherein each of said brake pads is molded as a unitary member formed of a different multi-rubber or elastomeric compound and said brake shoe includes locking means for positioning and restraining said brake pads therein;

said flanged recess includes inwardly projecting shoulders and said brake pads include sidewall indentations, said shoulders configured for slidably receiving said brake pads along said shoulders; and

said assembly including a transverse groove in the brake pad adjacent said open end for restraining said brake pads in said brake shoe.

8. (currently amended) A brake pad assembly for a bicycle having a brake system urging a brake shoe against the sidewall of the bicycle ~~tire~~ wheel rim, the assembly comprising:

a bicycle brake shoe having a closed end planar flanged recess with an open end for receiving a plurality of unitary abutting brake pads sequentially positioned longitudinally therein along an axis parallel to the contact surface of said sidewall, each said brake pad having a bicycle wheel ~~tire~~ sidewall engaging braking surface generally coplanar with the other and each being

formed of a different multi-rubber or elastomeric compound, each compound imparting a different preselected braking characteristic to said brake system;

each of said brake pads configured for slidable interchangeability and replacement within said brake shoe; and

said brake shoe has longitudinal transverse curvature substantially in conformance with the radius of the sidewall of the bicycle wheel rim ~~tie~~.

9. (currently amended) The brake pad assembly according to Claim 8 wherein each of said plurality of brake pads is comprised of a top portion and a bottom portion, the portions defined by an indentation on each non-abutting side of said brake pad; and

said brake shoe flange includes inwardly projecting shoulders configured for coacting with said brake pad indentations whereby said brake pads are slidably received along said shoulders in said brake shoe, said top portion captured in said brake shoe by said flange and said bottom portion extending from said brake shoe with a braking surface for planar contact with said sidewall of the bicycle wheel rim ~~tire sidewall~~.

10. (previously presented) The brake pad assembly according to Claim 9 wherein said brake shoe includes locking means for capturing and retaining said plurality of brake pads in abutting arrangement within said brake shoe, said locking means including means in said brake shoe coacting with the brake pad adjacent said open end for securing said brake pads in said brake shoe.

11. (canceled)

12. (previously presented) The brake pad assembly according to Claim 10 wherein said means in said brake shoe coacting for securing said brake pads in said brake shoe includes a transverse groove in the brake pad adjacent said opening coacting with a locking member inserted within said groove transversely of said brake shoe.

13. (previously presented) The brake pad assembly according to Claim 10 wherein said plurality of brake pads are retained in longitudinal planar alignment relative to one another and relative to said brake shoe recess.

14. (canceled)

15. (currently amended) A brake shoe assembly for a bicycle having a brake system urging a brake shoe against the sidewall of the bicycle wheel rim ~~tire~~, the assembly comprising:

an elongate brake shoe having a planar recess therein with an open end and a closed end for axially receiving through said open end a plurality of individually molded brake pads in abutting arrangement sequentially positioned within said brake shoe along an axis parallel to the contact surface of said sidewall, each brake pad of a different compound for imparting a different braking characteristics to said brake pad assembly, said brake shoe and said brake pads configured for slidable replacement and interchangeability of said brake pads within said brake shoe;

each of said plurality of brake pads is comprised of a top portion and a bottom portion defined by indentations in each non-abutting side of said brake pad and said brake shoe includes an engagement rail extending completely around said recess except for said open end and having inwardly projecting shoulders configured for coacting engagement with said indentations whereby said brake pads are slidably received along said rail restrained in an axial position in said brake shoe, said top portion contained within said brake shoe by said rail and said bottom portion extending from said brake shoe and having a braking surface for contact with said sidewall of the bicycle ~~tire~~ wheel rim;

said planar brake shoe having longitudinal transverse curvature substantially in conformance with the radius of the sidewall of the bicycle ~~tire~~ wheel rim; and

wherein said brake shoe and the brake pad adjacent said open end have coacting means for securing said brake pads in said brake shoe.

16. (previously presented) The brake pad assembly according to Claim 15 wherein each of said brake pads is molded as an individual unitary member for imparting a variety of braking characteristics to said brake pad assembly.

17. (previously presented) The brake pad assembly according to Claim 16 wherein each of said brake pads is formed of a different multi-rubber or elastomeric braking compound.

18. (canceled)

19. (previously presented) The brake pad assembly according to Claim 15 wherein said coacting means for securing said brake pads in said brake shoe includes a transverse groove in the brake pad adjacent said opening coacting with a locking pin inserted through said groove.

20. (currently amended) The brake pad assembly according to Claim 15 wherein each said brake pad when inserted into said brake shoe has a bicycle wheel ~~tire~~ sidewall engaging surface generally coplanar with the other and with said sidewall.